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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the first complete paragraph on page 7 of the originally filed specification starting at line 2 and ending at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

A1

If the number of timed out connections does not exceed the second predetermined threshold B_{2S}, the result in step 309 is NO, and the process continues to step 311 where a complete packet diversion that was instituted in step 305 is reset. At this point, the switch 131 is directed to again divert only a predetermined small fraction of the SYN packets destined to server S, to web guard processor 201 (same as in step 301). The process then returns to step 303.

Please replace the first paragraph of page 4 of the originally filed specification starting at line 3 and ending at line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

A2

In order to put the present invention in the appropriate context, it will be helpful to first review the infrastructure elements presently in use by context delivery companies and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to provide fast and reliable delivery of information to users over the Internet. Referring to Fig. 1, a group of users or clients 101-104 are shown at workstations or home computers that are connected to various elements in the Internet 100. Internet 100 includes a plurality of interconnected routers 150-154, and layer 4-7 switches 130-132. The arrangement and capabilities of these elements is well known to those skilled in the art. Examples of level 4 switches are switches in the IPWorX™ WebDirector family available from Lucent Technologies. Examples of layer 7 switches are the switches in the AppSwitch™ 3500 family available from Top Layer Networks. In Fig. 1, client 104 is shown as being connected to Internet 100 via a router 140 within an Intranet 140 141. This arrangement is meant simply to illustrate that the Internet is not a unitary arrangement, but consists of many

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interconnected individual networks of elements, some of which are referred to as

Intranets or private networks. Likewise, in Fig. 1, a server 120 within an Intranet

122 is shown as being connected to Internet 100 via a firewall 121. Here again,

this depiction is illustrative of the fact that content is contained on servers like

server 120 within the networks (Intranet 122) of content providers, and that some

protection is currently afforded by software arrangements such as firewall 121

which try to block unauthorized access. Server 120 can be the victim of a

coordinated denial of service attack that the present invention is designed to

prevent.

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract on the following
page: